

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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A complete listing of claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to receive a sole of the boot, a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having at least two elongated holes, parallel to one another, the elongated holes extending ~~which~~ extend through a thickness of the disk, and at least two screws each extending through respective ones of the elongated holes, ~~and said~~ the assembly further comprising a single plate parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable along lengths of the elongated holes, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate, each of said at least two screws extending through a respective hole of the plate, and means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is located on a the lower portion of the disk.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 3, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disk has four elongated holes, parallel to one another, aligned in pairs, across from one another in pairs, and wherein the plate has four holes spread to the four corners of a square.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to support a sole of the boot, the base being adapted to be affixed to the sports apparatus;

a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having at least two ~~three~~ elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

at least two ~~three~~ screws, said screws provided to extend through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk;

a plate provided to be positioned parallel to the disk and slidable along a surface of the disk, at least two ~~three~~ holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate and for connecting the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus, all of the at least two ~~three~~ screws provided to extend through respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 7. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is located beneath the disk.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise four elongated holes extending in the same direction, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes, and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises four holes positioned at four corners of a square.

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the base, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base comprises a circular opening through a thickness of the base and a circular disk nested in the circular opening of the base for rotation within the circular opening of the base, and wherein the at least two elongated holes extend through the disk of the base.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is positioned beneath the disk.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is positioned above the disk.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 17, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise four elongated holes extending in the same direction, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes, and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises four holes positioned at four corners of a square.

Claim 20. (*Canceled*)

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disk has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 21, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the disk has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 26, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 28. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 29. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 30. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 31. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 32. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 31, wherein the base has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 33. (*New*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disk has an upper surface adapted to face upwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, and a lower surface adapted to face downwardly relative to the

sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, wherein a cavity is recessed in the lower surface of the disk, and wherein the plate is housed in the cavity and is slidably movable within the cavity at least in a direction along the lengths of the elongated holes of the disk.

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Claim 34. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base has an upper surface adapted to face upwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, and a lower surface adapted to face downwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, wherein a cavity is recessed in the lower surface of the base, and wherein the plate is housed in the cavity and is slidably movable within the cavity at least in a direction along the lengths of the elongated holes of the base.

Claim 35. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 36. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 37. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein said single plate^{112, 2nd} has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

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Claim 38. (New) An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said base, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of said assembly having said predeterminate size and shape;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said plurality of screws comprising means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

Claim 39. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 38, wherein base further comprises a through opening and a disk supportable above said through opening, and wherein

said at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said base comprises at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk.

Claim 40. (New) An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

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a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said base, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of the assembly having said predeterminate size and shape;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said base being positionable between a disassembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is not secured onto the sports apparatus, and an assembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is secured onto the sports apparatus;

in said assembled position of the retaining assembly, every screw extending into the upper surface of the sports apparatus extends through said plate of the assembly.

Claim 41. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 40, wherein said plurality of

screws comprise means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

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Claim 42. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 40, wherein base further comprises a through opening and a disk supportable above said through opening, and wherein said at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said base comprises at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk.
